

In the News

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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Message from the Mayor

Earlier this month, I was happy to announce that Target Corporation plans to open a store in the Columbia Heights neighborhood of the District of Columbia.

I've been looking forward to this day for a long time, as have many of our citizens who are eager to see major retailers plant themselves in our city. Best of all, Target plans to come to an area of our city that is developing with vigor.

The residents of Columbia Heights have been waiting for this announcement for almost 30 years. I appreciate their patience. Target and the project's developer—Grid Properties—reached an agreement in principle that the store will occupy 169,000 square feet in the planned "DC USA" complex, which will be built on a vacant lot near the corner of 14th and Irving streets, NW.

This is another major accomplishment in our efforts to bring economic development and retail to every neighborhood and every corner of the city. This past spring, we welcomed Home Depot to Brentwood. Now, Target is coming to Columbia Heights. Who knows where we'll be next...but it's likely that we're coming to an empty lot near you.

By next spring, we'll see DC USA under construction and a 520,000 square-foot development begin to grow. By the summer of 2005, we'll be able to shop at Target and other national retailers that could include stores like Borders Books and Music or Best Buy.

We'll also be able to shop in more community-oriented businesses and smaller, locally-owned business. We've made sure that Columbia Heights doesn't lose its local flavor by subsidizing rents for qualified businesses, which will allow them to stay on 14th Street.

By 2005, we'll also be able to work out in the sports club or go bowling in the city's only bowling alley. Up the block will be the renovated Tivoli Theater with a grocery store, a coffee shop, and other neighborhood shops.

These projects—and DC USA—only happen because we now have a government that works with the residents and with the private sector to revitalize our neighborhoods. The fact that Target is interested in coming to the District and that the private sector is investing in DC USA is evidence of how far we've come since the days of financial bankruptcy, court receivership, and broken government.

I welcome Target to the nation's capital, and I look forward to seeing construction begin next spring. Like many other citizens of the District, I'm eagerly looking forward to more stores in our city, which will make it easier for residents to shop here and to keep their tax dollars in the city.



AGENCY WEBSITES

[Office of Tax and Revenue](#)

[Department of Parks and Recreation](#)

[Department of Employment Services](#)

[Metropolitan Police Department](#)

[Office of Boards and Commissions](#)

[Commission on the Arts and Humanities](#)

[Advisory Neighborhood Commissions](#)

DC Lottery Employees Are 'Good Samaritans' Who Tracked Down Owner of Unsigned Lottery Ticket

Maylin Stephens just happened to pick up an unsigned ticket at the DC Lottery Claims Center on August 13, while he was making his daily runs. The ticket turned out to be worth \$5,000.

"The ticket was half folded, so I didn't know it was unsigned," said Maylin, a motor vehicle driver for the DC Lottery and Charitable Games Control Board. He turned it over to Claims Center Teller Cheryl Malone.

Earlier that day, Charles Smith of Northeast Washington had been at the claims center to cash in four DC-4 winning tickets worth \$5,000 each. He was unable to find the fourth ticket and assumed that he left it at home. He told Cheryl that he would come in the next day with the ticket to claim the remainder of his money.



Maylin Stephens and Cheryl Malone

Cheryl thought the unsigned ticket was probably Mr. Smith's lost ticket. She compared the agent identification number and agent terminal number to the other three tickets he turned in and saw that all of the information matched. Mr. Smith had not left a phone number, so she asked her supervisor, Claims Center Manager Ann McPherson, how she should contact him.

Ann called information, but Mr. Smith's number was unlisted. Nevertheless, Ann was determined to reach him. "I asked to speak to the operator's supervisor, and I explained the situation to her. She told me that she would contact him for us and ask him to call us back. She did that, and we had the check ready for him when he returned to the claims center."

"I'm very happy with how the situation was handled," Ann said. "It was very nice that Maylin turned the ticket in."

Maylin, who is very modest about the situation, said that as a DC Lottery employee he is prohibited from playing in the District anyway, so he just did what he thought was right. "Anybody with a loving heart would have done the same thing," Maylin said. "It is always good to be a Good Samaritan."

Thanks Maylin, Cheryl, and Ann for a job well done!

Third Annual Giant Food Bike DC

Close to 10,000 bicycle enthusiasts took part in Giant Food Bike DC 2002 on September 14. That's almost 3,000 more riders than last year taking to the streets and pedaling on city pavement that is typically dominated by automobiles.

Cyclists from the District, 36 states—and from countries such as Uzbekistan and Zimbabwe—took part in the 34-mile ride, which brought riders along the Potomac River, the Anacostia River, through Southwest Washington, and along the Whitehurst Freeway.

While this may sound like just a day pedaling in the late summer sunshine, it represents much more.

Bike DC gives citizens the opportunity to come together and view parts of our city that many folks don't see every day. To realize my dream of "One City, One Future," it helps if we all explore the varied neighborhoods of the District of Columbia.

The Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA) has hosted Bike DC for the past three years along with cosponsor Giant Food. This year, riders had a choice of a 34- or 14-mile ride through four wards in the city and the George Washington Parkway. WABA promotes bicycling as a mode of transportation as well as entertainment and works to make bicycle facility improvements in the DC area. WABA has over 5,000 members with about 2,000 members living in the District.

The ride allowed many people to see the city from an entirely new perspective. That new perspective is one that's more connected to surroundings than when traveling in cars.

We're working to make bicycling safer through the "Safe Streets" campaign I launched in May, showing bicyclists, pedestrians, and motorists how to work together in traffic. This month, we're also updating our citywide bicycle plan, which will lay out a network of bikeways connecting communities and unifying our city.



LINK TO OTHER
WEBSITES

[DC Agenda](#)

[Hands on DC](#)

[DC Convention
and Tourism](#)

[DC Public Library](#)

Georgetown Connector

This month, we commemorated the one-year anniversary of the Georgetown Metro Connection—a bus that shuttles citizens from Metro stations in Dupont Circle, Foggy Bottom and Rosslyn to the Georgetown area. The bus, launched in 2001, has been a tremendous success for Georgetown.

In one year, the royal blue shuttle buses have become a common site, carrying an average of 4,000 riders per day at 50 cents per ride or 25 cents with a Metro connection. Georgetown officials expect the shuttle bus will hit 1 million total riders for the year this month.

The District gave \$200,000 last year to the Georgetown Partnership to help run the service. For the coming year, we have earmarked \$300,000 for the service. This can help expand the shuttle program and get the word out to people who don't even know it exists.

The service boasts a fleet of 28 passenger buses and is funded by the Georgetown Partnership, Federal Transit Administration, DC government, Arlington County government, and Rosslyn property owners.

The Georgetown Metro Connection is a great addition to our city's transportation efforts. Every month, about 100,000 people ride the buses. That's an indication that the buses have succeeded in their goal: to bring people to and from the Metro and back again.

The idea behind a sustainable transportation plan is for a city to provide a range of services, including an innovative plan like the Metro Connection. The Metro Connection has succeeded in part because, as a region, we've worked together.

I want to thank our citizens who over the past year have helped make this project a terrific example of how government can work together with the community to solve problems.

Disabled Voters Reach Settlement Agreement with the District

New voting machines for people with disabilities in the District of Columbia will make it much easier than in the past for the disabled to vote. Under an agreement between the District government and a host of organizations, voters with disabilities will soon be able to exercise the right to vote in all elections conducted within the District of Columbia. The agreement embodies the shared goal of making all polling places physically accessible to voters with physical disabilities.

Under the terms of the agreement, voters with visual and manual disabilities will be able to vote independently and in secret on new, accessible voting machines. They will also have enhanced access to all polling places in the District of Columbia.

We have also agreed to survey all polling places and correct any problems to the maximum extent feasible. As a result of the agreement, at least one audio-equipped, accessible, Direct Record Electronic (DRE) voting machine will be used in every precinct within the District beginning with the May 2004 Presidential Primary.

Demonstration DRE's were dispersed throughout the wards during the 2002 Primary Elections, and will be dispersed in wards during the upcoming General Election. They will provide voters with an opportunity to view and test the machines.

Involved in the agreement were: the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD); the Disability Rights Council of Greater Washington (DRC); the Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs; and the District of Columbia Board of Elections and Ethics (BOEE).

I'm pleased that we've found common ground that will allow all citizens of our city to exercise their most basic, fundamental right—the right to vote—with dignity, privacy and independence. As a result of this agreement, not only will District voters be able to access polling places, but their ability to vote independently will be enhanced without compromising the integrity of the election process.



Filming In and Around DC

Living in the District of Columbia provides us a window into many different aspects of life. One nifty aspect is seeing a Hollywood film crew working on a hot new movie, mini-series, or TV show. As we head into the fall season, our city is a thriving hot spot for filmmakers and TV producers.

On September 17, people gathered on the front steps of the John A. Wilson Building at 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, eager to catch a glimpse of actor and comedian Chris Rock in action. In his directorial debut, *Head of State*, Rock stars as a city council member who suddenly becomes a candidate for President of the United States.

Rock co-wrote the screenplay with Emmy Award-winning writer Ali LeRoi, who previously collaborated with Rock on the film, *Down to Earth*. In *Head of State*, Rock stars as Mays Gilliam, a Washington, DC, city council member plucked from obscurity and pushed into the limelight as his party's nominee—for President of the United States. The film also stars Bernie Mac of TV's *The Bernie Mac Show*.

Principle photography on *Head of State* began on July 15 in Baltimore. Filming will be done entirely on location in Baltimore and Washington, DC.

Another movie—this one a TV mini-series—is currently filming in our city. Actors William Hurt, Peter Boyle, and Wayne Knight are among the stars filming *Masterspy: The Robert Hanssen Story*, which is scheduled to air on CBS on November 17.

Hurt and other actors have been filming near the White House and other locations around the city. The mini-series is based on the life of Robert Hanssen, a former FBI agent charged with committing espionage by providing highly classified national security information to Russia and the former Soviet Union.

District Activities



Thousands of cyclists line up on Pennsylvania Avenue for the start of Giant Food Bike DC, a car-free ride throughout DC and the George Washington Memorial Parkway.



Actor and director Chris Rock works hard to create a realistic scene in front of the Wilson Building during filming of his upcoming movie, *Head of State*.



Mayor Williams designates an area of Kingman Island as the location for a memorial tree grove commemorating the victims of the September 11 terrorist attacks.



Mayor Williams addresses an eager audience to announce that Target will open a store in Columbia Heights.



Community News

- [Mayor Outlines Budget Proposal to Address Projected Revenue Shortfall](#)
- [Public/Private Conference Emphasizes “Partnerships—Now More Than Ever”](#)
- [DC DMV Headquarters To Offer Saturday Hours](#)

[Click here](#) to view news releases.

Upcoming Events

10/05 DC Government - Latino Day

10 am—5 pm
Upshur Recreation Center
14th and Upshur Streets, NW

10/06 Fire Prevention Week

thru Activities are scheduled throughout the District.
10/12

10/07 Fire Safety Teach-in [Ward 4]

Peoples Congregational Church
4703 13th Street, NW
Fellowship Hall
6:30 pm

The first of several citywide “Fire Safety Teach-ins” about fire safety, building inspections, and home fire hazards begins in communities throughout the District. Fire inspectors, who also enforce the fire code in the District, will provide briefings, educational materials, and conduct home fire safety quizzes for young children.

10/08 YMCA After-School Hunt for Home Fire Hazards

National Capital YMCA, 1711 Rhode Island Avenue, NW
Capital View YMCA, 2118 Ridgecrest Court, SE
Calomiris YMCA, 1906 Alison Street, NE
Anthony Bowen YMCA, 1325 W Street, NW

YMCA after-school programs will feature the presentation of “Hunt for Home Fire Hazards” in which students will be shown how to find hazards in the home. Participants who complete the search will receive multiple smoke detectors for each level of their homes and special prizes on Thursday, October 10.

10/09 Fire Safety Teach-ins [Wards 3 and 8]

Fire Engine Company 31
4930 Connecticut Avenue, NW
4—6 pm

Wheeler Creek Community Center
900 Varney Street, SE
7—9 pm

10/09 Cafritz Foundation Awards for Extraordinary Public Service

World Bank Atrium
1818 H Street, NW
6:30 pm

10/12 Taste of DC

thru Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, between 7th and 14th Streets
10/14 11 am—6:30 pm daily

10/17 Utility Discount Day

DC Convention Center
900 9th Street, NW
8 am—7 pm

10/24 Public Private Partnership Conference

George Washington University
Marvin Center
21st and H Streets, NW
8 am—4 pm

[Click here](#) to view the Mayor's daily schedule.

